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R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. Twenty-three claims are pending in the application: Claims 1 through 23.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. At the outset, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-23 as allowable subject matter. At this time, no amendments to the claims have been made in order to attempt to place all of the pending claims in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102

2. Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,847,574 (*Gauthier et al.*).

Gauthier et al. disclose a tri-band feed system for operation with signals in the 4, 7 and 11 GHz bands. The tri-band feed system includes a common tapered waveguide 15 through which the signals are transmitted to and from branching and combining units (See *Gauthier et al.* Column 5, lines 35-54). The waveguide 15 is suitably tapered so that a far end is below cut-off frequencies for the C-band, thereby enabling a portion of the waveguide to act as a high-pass filter (See *Gauthier et al.* Column 5, lines 58-61). Behind a 7 GHz branching unit, a square cross-section is changed to a circular cross-section (See *Gauthier et al.* Column 7, lines 17-20).

M.P.E.P section 2131 states that "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the

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claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference."

In contrast to *Gauthier et al.*, claim 1 recites "a stepped waveguide coupled to the corrugated horn." As described in the specification of Applicants' application, each step acts as a short for a low frequency band while allowing signals with higher frequencies to further propagate through the waveguide. The steps provide for controlled propagation of the signals. Thus, Applicants waveguide has defined "stepped" portions that, as described, act as a short for certain lower frequencies at each defined "stepped" portion.

The waveguide taught by *Gauthier et al.* is not a stepped waveguide, but as recited is a tapered waveguide. As shown in Fig. 2 of *Gauthier et al.*, the tapered waveguide gradually becomes smaller in a continuous fashion. *Gauthier et al.* does not teach a "stepped" waveguide, but only a tapered waveguide.

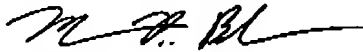
Therefore, *Gauthier et al.* do not teach each and every element of claim 1, either expressly or inherently. Thus, under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and M.P.E.P. section 2131, claim 1 is not anticipated by *Gauthier et al.* Thus, Applicants respectfully submit the rejection is overcome and claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

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C O N C L U S I O N

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited. Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Thomas F. Lebens at (805) 781-2865 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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